

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA / WVIND 710724



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 24 July 1971

NSA Declassification/Release instructions on File.

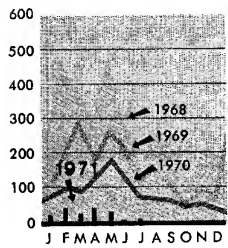
For the President Only

~~Top Secret~~

SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1971

Weekly average for each month

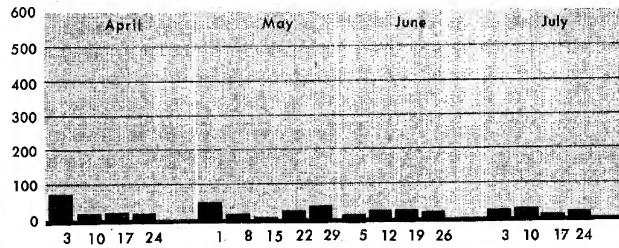


APRIL 1971 - JULY 1971

Weekly data as reported

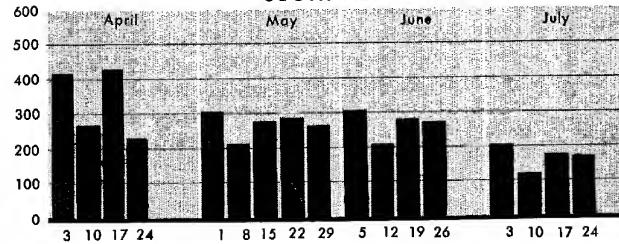
US BATTLE DEATHS

increased slightly to 13 from last week's 11.



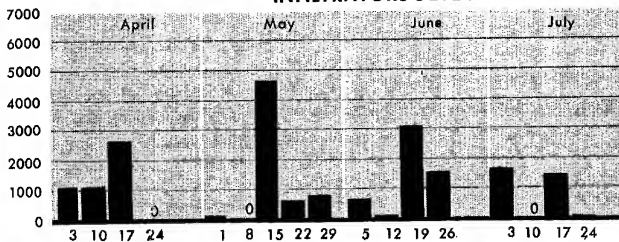
SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS

decreased to 175 from last week's 186. The official total will change and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.



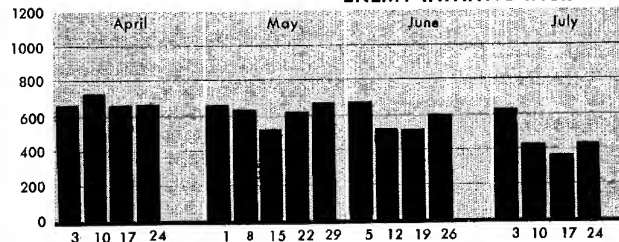
INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE

stand at one special purpose group with 19 personnel. The infiltration estimate since 1 October 1970 remains at some 75,500-77,500.



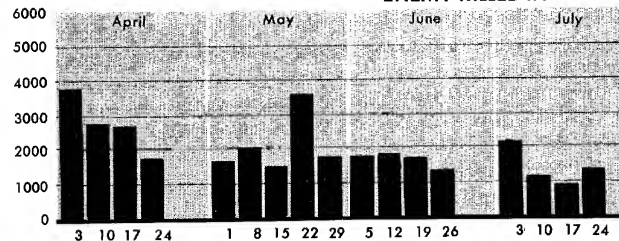
ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS

remained at a low level but increased to 423 from last week's 378.



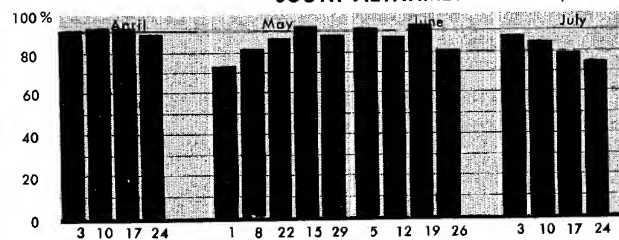
ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION

rose significantly to 1389 from the 975 of last week.



SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS

as measured by the percentage of enemy forces killed by GVN forces dropped to 74% from last week's 79%.



Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

~~FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY~~

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, enemy-initiated activity remained at very low levels during the past week, but there are many signs that renewed heavy attacks by fire -- possibly accompanied by ground action -- may be imminent in northern MR 1. Other parts of the country will probably be relatively quiet as the Communists pursue their plans for disrupting the GVN elections.

In northern Laos, government irregular troops are occupying positions north of the Plain of Jars against little resistance while sustaining enemy counterattacks on their northeast and eastern flanks. Friendly forces operating on the Plain of Jars between 4 June and 7 July captured nearly 900 tons of enemy food, weapons, ammunition, and field gear. In southern Laos, where North Vietnamese forces have sharply reduced their tactical activity since the onset of the rainy season, there were only minor government-initiated engagements during the reporting week covered, though a new RLG offensive is just now being launched.

Enemy activity in Cambodia continued at a low level during the past week, but a slight upsurge was noted over the weekend as the Communists responded to new, limited government operations. One of these, a multi-battalion government operation north of Phnom Penh, has the mission of interdicting the enemy's "western supply corridor." The vital rice supply convoys between Battambang and Phnom Penh have continued basically unimpeded, but traffic on Route 4 to Kompong Som has been halted by the partial destruction of a bridge.

Enemy Infiltration

The detection of one small, special purpose group during the week does not affect the estimate of infiltrators detected since 1 October 1970 which remains at some 75,500 - 77,500. While this estimate will increase slightly as "gap" groups are accepted and small groups of fillers move south, the greatly reduced flow of personnel confirms that this season's cycle of heavy infiltration has ended. Infiltration-associated elements are now complying with the directive to cease using the two-watt radio with only limited use of these radios currently being observed. The two-watt radio will remain a back-up system for use when landlines are not available or are disrupted by weather or combat activity. Although the loss of consistent, infiltration-associated two-watt radio communications will reduce the amount of specific and timely data on future aspects of infiltration, important data continue to be noted in multi-channel communications which to a considerable extent have compensated for the reduction in two-watt radio traffic.

South Vietnam Developments

Both President Thieu and General "Big" Minh officially announced their candidacies for the presidency and the names of their running mates this week. Ex-Premier Tran Van Huong, a southerner and Buddhist, will run with Thieu, while Dr. Ho Van Minh, deputy chairman of the Lower House and a southern Catholic, will team up with Big Minh. Thus, all slates, including that of Ky if he runs, will have a Catholic-Buddhist balance. With only about a week remaining before the 4 August filing deadline, it is becoming increasingly unlikely that Vice President Ky will be able to qualify as a candidate. Pressure from Thieu-appointed province chiefs, who must certify all endorsements, is effectively discouraging the local council members from supporting Ky, and latest reports indicate he has less than 20 of the required 100 signatures. The Thieu forces remain determined to prevent Ky's qualification and appear unconcerned over the probable international criticism and the possibility that Minh will withdraw if Ky is eliminated.

Although MR 4 was the only region on the plus side, the Hamlet Evaluation System results for June show a net over-all improvement in GVN control over last month. The percentage of population living in A and B hamlets rose to 76.8 percent -- a figure which compares with about 52 percent when the Vietnamization Program began in June 1969. If the people in C-rated hamlets are included, 17,323,000 people out of a total population of 18,295,000 now live in areas predominantly under government control, i.e. 94.7 percent of the population.

~~Top Secret~~